DMR

THE DEVELOPING MARKET REPORT

A Harlem Times publication

FIRST QUARTER 2027



$10.5 Billion

Inside GranMorgu, Suriname's first offshore oil project. First oil 2028.

93% Forest

The eco-tourism frontier, and the hotels it still needs

Many Roots

Culture, heritage and a diaspora ready to build

SAY

SURINAME

The Americas' Hidden Jewel

ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EXCLUSIVE

DMR's One-on-One with
Ambassador Marlon Mohamed-Hoesein

COVER PHOTO: "RIVER BOSS" © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Finding Gems Where No One Looked Before

Why The Developing Market Report exists, what we promise our readers and partners, and why our journey begins on the banks of the Suriname River.

Welcome to The Developing Market Report. The DMR has one mission: to promote economic growth in the developing world. Not as charity, and not as an afterthought, but as one of the great business stories of our time.

For more than 25 years, The Harlem Times has told the story of a community that the rest of the world once overlooked. Today our community is experiencing massive development of its own: new towers, new businesses, new money and new ideas. We know what it looks like when investors finally see what was there all along. The DMR takes that lesson to the world.

OUR PROMISE TO READERS

We promise to bring you real insight into new markets: the numbers, the people and the projects behind them. We will showcase the partners who want to create pathways and partnerships across a wide range of categories, from energy and infrastructure to agriculture, technology and the creative industries.

OUR PROMISE TO NATIONS

We will work closely with consulates and embassies to promote development that benefits the people who live in each country. Growth that leaves people behind is not the story we want to tell. And we will build bridges between these nations and communities like ours, so that a diaspora with skills, capital and networks can take part in the next chapter.

OUR PROMISE TO INVESTORS

We want to find the gems where no one looked before, and help develop new means of economic activity in tourism, investment, strategic partnerships and collaboration across industries. In future editions, the DMR will add SWOT analysis and competitive industry analysis for each country we cover, showing which segments offer the greatest opportunity. You will find a first preview of that work in this issue.

WHY SURINAME

Suriname is a nation of about 650,000 people with a rainforest the size of a large American state, three UNESCO World Heritage properties, one of the most multicultural societies on earth, and, in 2028, its first offshore oil. It is a country on the eve of transformation, and it is asking the right question: how do we make sure the whole nation benefits?

My thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Marlon Mohamed-Hoesein and to the staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname in Washington for their time, their candor and the beautiful images in these pages. Suriname, welcome to the DMR.

Paul Jackson

PUBLISHER, THE DEVELOPING MARKET REPORT
AND THE HARLEM TIMES

THE DMR MISSION

To promote economic growth in the developing world.

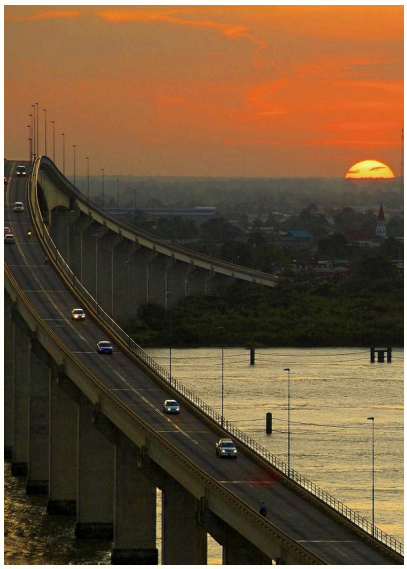
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02 Partners who build pathways

03 Close work with embassies and consulates

04 Bridges to the diaspora

05 SWOT and industry analysis, country by country



Sunset over Paramaribo. The Jules Wijdenbosch Bridge, known locally as the Bosjebrug, spans the Suriname River. Photo © Pics by PLU, Hedwig de la Fuente

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SURINAME AT A GLANCE

The Essentials Before the First Meeting

Data from the CIA World Factbook, the Government of Suriname Country Factsheet (October 2026) and SITA, as noted.

653,605
POPULATION (2025 EST.)[1]

163,820
SQUARE KM, SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN GEORGIA[1]

≈93%
FOREST COVER[2]

$5.91B
GDP, CURRENT PRICES (2026)[2]

3.9%
REAL GDP GROWTH (2026)[2]

29
MEDIAN AGE[3]

Capital	Paramaribo
Government	Constitutional democracy. President H.E. Jennifer Simons, the country's first female president, inaugurated 16 July 2025[2]
Independence	25 November 1975, from the Netherlands
Languages	Dutch (official); Sranan Tongo (lingua franca); Sarnami Hindustani, Javanese, Maroon and Indigenous languages; English widely used[2]
Borders	Guyana 836 km, French Guiana 556 km, Brazil 515 km; Atlantic coastline 386 km[1]
Climate	Tropical, moderated by trade winds[1]; outside the Atlantic hurricane belt[3]
Natural resources	Timber, hydropower, fish, kaolin, shrimp, bauxite, gold, and small amounts of nickel, copper, platinum and iron ore[1]; offshore oil and gas
GDP per capita (PPP)	$19,400 (2023 est.)[1]
Currency / time	Surinamese dollar (SRD) / UTC−3, two hours ahead of New York in winter
Trade blocs	CARICOM member; CARIFORUM–EU and UK EPAs; WTO[3]

1 CIA World Factbook. 2 Government of the Republic of Suriname, Country Factsheet, October 2026 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation). 3 Suriname Investment & Trade Agency (SITA), General Deck, August 2026.



EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE · COURTESY EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

THE DMR INTERVIEW

"Suriname Is Changing, With Plenty of New Opportunities"

DMR's one-on-one with His Excellency Marlon Mohamed-Hoesein, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname to the United States, on oil, diversification, the diaspora and why his country belongs on every investor's map.

Ambassador Mohamed-Hoesein spoke with DMR publisher Paul Jackson by video from Washington, then answered our questions in writing. His answers appear on the following pages in his own words. The questions are DMR's.

He also shared the official offshore oil and gas map that appears on page 9, along with a set of photographs of his country, which open this interview and run throughout this edition.

On the photo above: Thousands of Surinamers form a living national flag on Independence Square in Paramaribo, beside the Suriname River. The flag's green stands for fertility and hope, white for peace and justice, red for progress and love, and the gold star for the unity of the nation's peoples.

How to read this interview: Questions in green are from the DMR. Every answer is the Ambassador's own.



The Ambassador: His Excellency Marlon Faisal Mohamed-Hoesein, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname to the United States and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. Photo: Organization of American States.

DMR: What are the developments in Suriname today that the diaspora should know about?

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN: Suriname is entering an important new chapter in its development. One of the most significant developments is the emergence of our offshore oil and gas industry. The GranMorgu project in Block 58, led by TotalEnergies and APA Corporation, is moving forward, with first oil expected in 2028. Various other international companies are also exploring and developing offshore opportunities.

This creates prospects not only in the energy sector, but also in infrastructure, ports, transportation, logistics, construction, hospitality, technology and professional services.

The main objective for Suriname is to use the opportunities created by the energy sector to build a stronger, more diversified and inclusive economy, while strengthening and further developing key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, forestry, fisheries, mining and digital services.

We want economic growth to translate into jobs, skills, better infrastructure and improved opportunities for the population. The diaspora should know that Suriname is changing with plenty of new opportunities.

"We want economic growth to translate into jobs, skills, better infrastructure and improved opportunities for the population."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

DMR: What opportunities are there for diaspora travel, trade and investment?

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN: There are opportunities in all three areas, and I would encourage the diaspora to look at Suriname not only as a place to visit, but also as a place to build partnerships and do business.

For travel, Surinamese Americans can rediscover their roots, bring their children and grandchildren to experience the country, and encourage friends and colleagues to visit. Tourism offers opportunities in ecolodges, hotels, restaurants, tour operations, river excursions and cultural experiences.

For trade, there is room to expand the exchange of Surinamese agricultural products, food, beverages, wood products, cultural goods and creative services. Diaspora entrepreneurs can help introduce Surinamese products to markets in New York and elsewhere in the United States.

For investment, the possibilities include energy services, port and logistics infrastructure, housing, agriculture, agro-processing, tourism, ICT and professional services. The diaspora also has something extremely valuable to contribute beyond capital: expertise, business networks, technology and knowledge of the American market.

I would encourage interested members of the diaspora to connect with Suriname's investment agency SITA and to explore opportunities with established local partners. The aim should be to create businesses that generate employment and lasting value in Suriname. Contact can be made with the Embassy of Suriname in Washington D.C. through amb.washington@mofa.gov.sr.

"The diaspora also has something extremely valuable to contribute beyond capital."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN



On the cover. River travel remains the lifeline of Suriname's interior, where Maroon and Indigenous communities live along the great rivers and the rainforest begins at the water's edge.

DMR: What should a first-time visitor to Suriname experience?

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN: A first-time visitor should experience the remarkable combination of nature, culture, history and hospitality that makes Suriname unique.

I would begin in Paramaribo, particularly its historic inner city, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors should explore its wooden architecture, historic buildings, markets, museums and places of worship. They should also experience our cuisine. Suriname's food reflects the influences of Indigenous, African, Indian, Javanese, Chinese, Jewish and European communities. It is one of the best ways to understand our multicultural society, in which no single ethnic group forms a majority.

But Suriname is much more than its capital. I would encourage visitors to travel to the interior, experience the rainforest, take a river journey, visit nature reserves and learn about the traditions and way of life of Indigenous and Maroon communities, with respect for their cultures and under the guidance of local communities.

Suriname offers something different from conventional tourism. It is a destination for people who appreciate nature, authenticity, cultural diversity and meaningful experiences. More than 90 percent of the country remains forested, making its natural environment one of its greatest assets. Suriname also makes a significant contribution to global climate mitigation, as its forests absorb more carbon dioxide than the country emits.

> ***"Suriname offers something different from conventional tourism."***
>
> AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

DMR: How can Harlem and Suriname build closer ties?

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN: I believe Harlem and Suriname can build a meaningful relationship through culture, education, business and people-to-people connections.

Harlem has a rich history of African American culture, entrepreneurship, music, literature and community leadership. Suriname, too, has a remarkable cultural heritage shaped by African, Indigenous, Asian and European influences. There are opportunities to bring these communities closer together and learn from one another.

We could develop cultural exchanges involving Surinamese and Harlem artists, musicians, writers and cultural organizations. We could also encourage exchanges between schools, universities and young professionals, creating opportunities for students to learn about each other's histories and societies.

There is also a business dimension. Harlem entrepreneurs and business associations could establish connections with Surinamese businesses in tourism, agriculture, food production, creative industries and trade. Business forums and trade missions could help turn these connections into practical partnerships.

I would also welcome closer cooperation between community organizations, churches, cultural institutions and diaspora associations. We should build relationships that go beyond an annual celebration and create sustained cooperation throughout the year.

The objective should be to connect our people, our institutions and our economic opportunities. Harlem and Suriname have much to share.

"Business forums and trade missions could help turn these connections into practical partnerships."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

DMR: What message would you send to the Surinamese and Caribbean community in New York?

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN: My message is simple: Suriname is your home, regardless of how many years you have lived abroad or whether you were born in Suriname or in the United States. Your connection to the country does not have to be limited to memories, family visits or cultural celebrations. It can also be expressed through knowledge, business, education, tourism and investment.

Suriname is approaching an important moment in its history. The development of the oil and gas sector offers new opportunities, but our future cannot depend on oil alone. We want to build a diversified economy, create opportunities for our young people and ensure that development benefits the entire population.

The diaspora has an important role to play. You have experience, professional skills, international networks and entrepreneurial energy. You can help open doors for Surinamese businesses, introduce new ideas and technologies, promote tourism and encourage investment.

I also want to recognize the contribution of the Caribbean community in New York. Our countries share history, culture, family connections and many common interests. We are one Caribbean family. Let us celebrate the bonds that unite us as Caribbean people and further deepen our cooperation.

I invite you to visit Suriname, bring your families, explore its opportunities and remain engaged in its development.

Let us turn our shared heritage into a shared future. Suriname welcomes you, and there is a place for every member of the diaspora in the country's next chapter.

"Let us turn our shared heritage into a shared future."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

The New Dawn Offshore

With GranMorgu, Suriname joins the Guyana–Suriname basin's oil age in 2028. The question now is not whether the oil comes, but who builds, supplies and services everything around it.

$10.5B	220,000	~760M	2028
GRANMORGU INVESTMENT, THE LARGEST IN SURINAME'S HISTORY	BARRELS PER DAY, FPSO CAPACITY	BARRELS OF RECOVERABLE RESOURCES	FIRST OIL, BLOCK 58, 150 KM OFFSHORE

In October 2024, TotalEnergies and APA Corporation took the final investment decision on GranMorgu, committing about $10.5 billion to develop the Sapakara South and Krabdagu fields in Block 58. Partners today are TotalEnergies (40%), APA Corporation (40%) and the national oil company Staatsolie (20%), according to the Government of Suriname.

The project is in full construction. SBM Offshore is building the floating production, storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) and will become Suriname's first FPSO operator. TechnipFMC is supplying the subsea system and Saipem holds a major construction contract. TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné put the project at 40% complete in July 2026, on schedule for start-up in the first half of 2028. Drilling of about 30 production and injection wells is set to follow, with more drilling after first oil to hold production at plateau.

The Government expects Suriname's offshore developments to generate more than US$1 billion in local content and over 6,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs.

And oil is only the beginning. In Block 52, PETRONAS and Staatsolie declared the Sloanea gas field commercial in November 2025, with a final investment decision expected around the end of 2026 and first gas targeted for 2030. PETRONAS now holds interests in eight offshore blocks.

IN THE AMBASSADOR'S WORDS

"Mid 2028 first oil will be pumped, 220,000 barrels per day in Block 58 by TotalEnergies and APA Corporation. Petronas has made 2 large gas discoveries in Block 52."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN, TO THE DMR

STAATSOLIE AT HOME

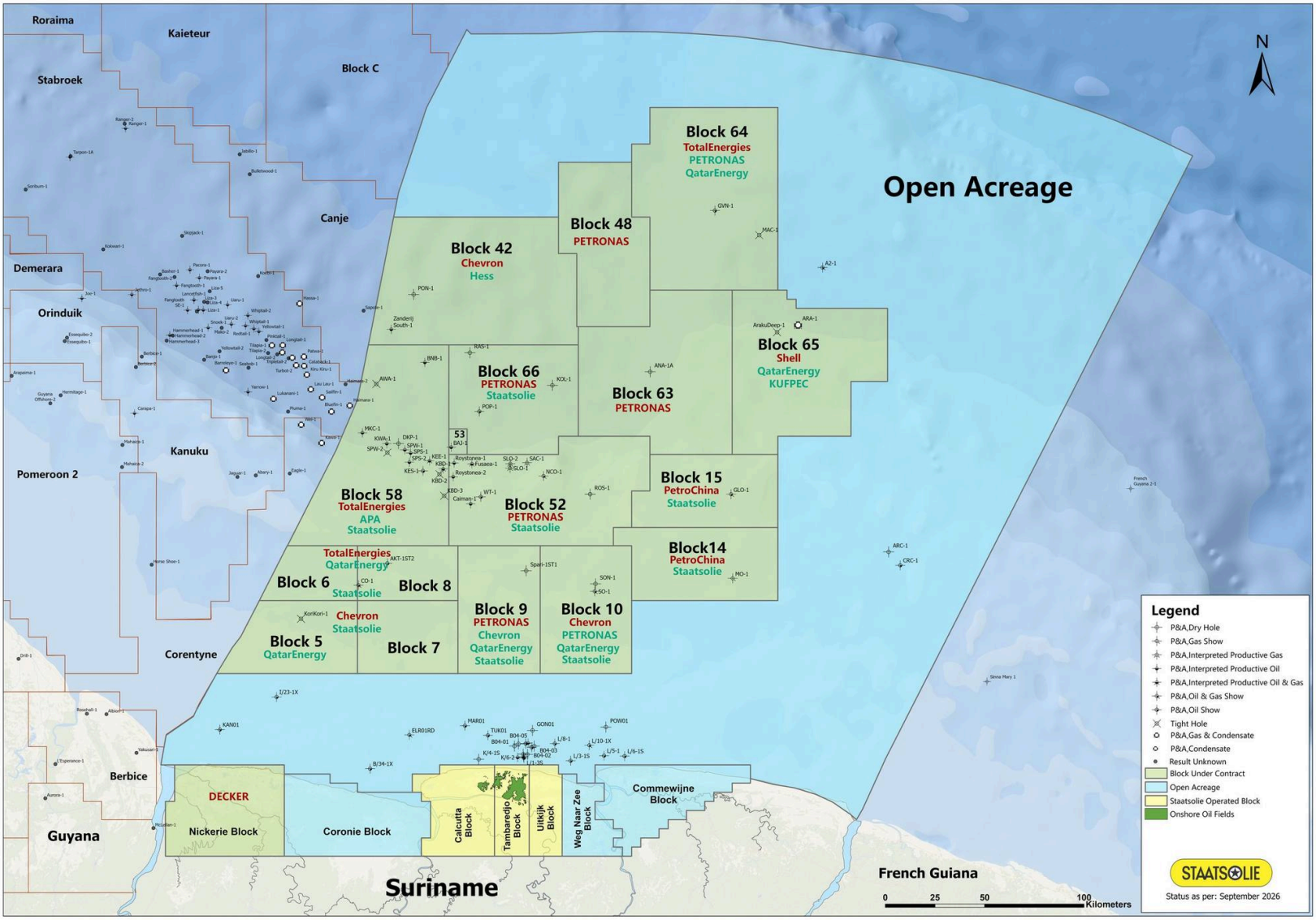
The national energy company, founded in 1980, produced 6.35 million barrels of onshore crude in 2025 and runs the 15,000 barrel-per-day Tout Lui Faut refinery. Its Afobaka hydropower plant supplied 69% of the national utility's electricity demand in 2025.

Sources: Government of Suriname Country Factsheet (Oct. 2026); SITA (Aug. 2026); TotalEnergies via OilNOW (July 2026); Staatsolie; Offshore Magazine; World Oil.

THE OFFICIAL OFFSHORE MAP

Who Holds What Offshore Suriname

Green blocks are under contract. Pale blue is open acreage, still available to investors. The cluster of wells to the west marks Guyana's Stabroek Block, the same geological trend now being drilled off Suriname.



Map: Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V., status as of September 2026. Provided to the DMR by the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname.

Block 58

TotalEnergies (operator), APA, Staatsolie. Home of GranMorgu: Sapakara South and Krabdagu fields. First oil 2028.

Block 52

PETRONAS (80%, operator) and Staatsolie subsidiary Paradise Oil (20%). Sloanea gas field declared commercial; first gas targeted 2030.

Open Acreage

A vast deepwater area beyond the contracted blocks. Staatsolie runs licensing rounds for new entrants.

The World's Energy Majors Are Already Here

From Houston to Kuala Lumpur, the biggest names in energy have staked out Suriname's waters. Their suppliers are following.

OFFSHORE BLOCKS AND PARTNERS

BLOCK	COMPANIES (PER STAATSOLIE MAP)
58	TotalEnergies · APA · Staatsolie
52	PETRONAS · Staatsolie
66	PETRONAS · Staatsolie
48 · 63	PETRONAS
64	TotalEnergies · PETRONAS · QatarEnergy
65	Shell · QatarEnergy · KUFPEC
42	Chevron · Hess
14 · 15	PetroChina · Staatsolie
5 – 10	QatarEnergy · Chevron · TotalEnergies · PETRONAS · Staatsolie

THE GRANMORGU SUPPLY CHAIN

COMPANY	ROLE
SBM Offshore (NL)	Builds, installs and operates the FPSO
TechnipFMC (FR)	Subsea trees, manifolds, connectors (~$1B)
Saipem (IT)	Construction contract (~$1.9B)
Halliburton · Baker Hughes (US)	Oilfield services, registered in Suriname
Fugro (NL)	Subsea geotechnical and survey
DP World (AE)	Paramaribo terminals and offshore shore base

Sources: Staatsolie map (Sept. 2026); SITA investor landscape (Aug. 2026).

TIMELINE TO FIRST OIL AND GAS

2013
Block 52 production sharing contract signed with PETRONAS

2020
Sloanea-1 gas discovery, Block 52

Oct 2024
GranMorgu final investment decision: about $10.5 billion. Moody's upgrades Suriname to Caa1

Nov 2025
Sloanea declared commercial, Suriname's first gas development milestone

2026
FPSO construction advanced; GranMorgu 40% complete (July). Sloanea FID expected

2027
Development drilling and subsea installation offshore

2028
First oil from GranMorgu, targeted for the first half of the year

2030
First gas targeted from Sloanea; gas-to-shore power programme

DMR INSIGHT

The window that matters is **now to 2028**. Suriname imported $540 million in business services in 2024, much of it the oil and gas supply chain. Every service that can be provided locally before first oil, from catering and logistics to fabrication and training, is an opening for investors and diaspora entrepreneurs.

A Stabilized Economy and a Pre-Oil Window

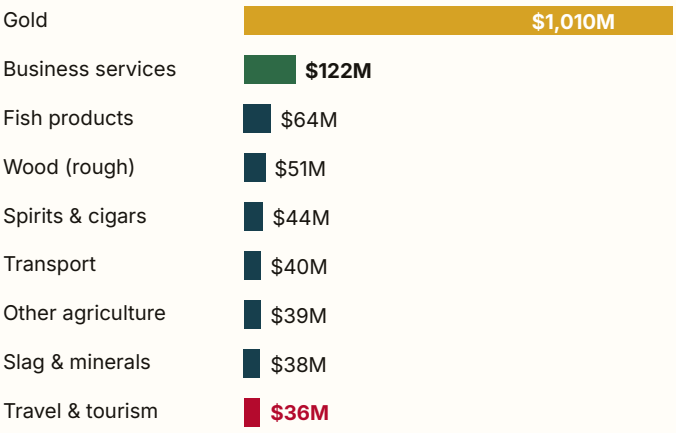
Five years ago Suriname was in crisis. Today its debt is down, its credit rating is up and its reserves are rebuilt. Early movers can still position at today's costs.

FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

INDICATOR	2020	TODAY
Debt-to-GDP	146%	**87% (2025)**
Moody's rating	Caa3	**Caa1 (Oct 2024)**
Inflation	~60%	**8.9% avg. through July 2026**
Reserves	Depleted	**≈$2.0B, 8.2 months of imports**
IMF programme	None	**Completed March 2025**
Paris Club / China debt	Unresolved	**Agreements 2022 / Nov 2024**

Sources: SITA (IMF Article IV, Moody's, World Bank); Government of Suriname Country Factsheet (Oct. 2026).

WHAT SURINAME EXPORTED IN 2024 · $1.6B TOTAL



Source: Harvard Growth Lab, Atlas of Economic Complexity 2024, via SITA. Note tourism, at just $36M.

Suriname's turnaround is real. Under a 2021–2025 IMF programme the government restructured its debts, rebuilt reserves and brought inflation down from crisis levels. Moody's upgraded the country two notches in October 2024. The Government projects GDP of US$5.91 billion in 2026 with real growth of 3.9%, and merchandise exports of US$2.97 billion in 2025.

The opportunity lies in timing. Revenue from GranMorgu does not begin until 2028. SITA, the national investment agency, calls this a "pre-revenue investment window": a chance to set up at today's costs, before first-oil dynamics reshape prices, wages and property.

WHERE THE NEAR-TERM MONEY IS

Oil and gas services. $540 million in imported business services in 2024, the single largest import, is the supply chain showing up in the data and the main target for local substitution.

Vehicles and machinery. $420 million in combined imports, set to rise as construction peaks. Local assembly, maintenance and parts supply are concrete plays.

Food. $230 million in agricultural imports, with 1.5 million hectares suited to farming and only 5% in production.

Power. A gas-to-shore programme from 2028 is expected to transform industrial electricity costs, with development-finance co-financing available for solar and grid projects.

Hospitality. Business travel, driven by oil and gas contractors, already accounts for 38% of travel and tourism spending. Paramaribo lacks mid-scale hotel and serviced-apartment inventory.



PHOTO © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

INFRASTRUCTURE

Built to Connect

Air, sea, road, power and data: Suriname's gateway infrastructure is expanding ahead of the offshore production phase, and each expansion is an investment opportunity.

519,171
INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS, J.A. PENGEL AIRPORT, 2025

100K
TEU AVERAGE YEARLY THROUGHPUT, DR. JULES SEDNEY PORT

+75%
KULDIPSINGH PORT CAPACITY, TO 480,000 TONS BY 2030

15,000
BARRELS PER DAY, STAATSOLIE REFINERY

By air

Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport, 45 km south of Paramaribo, links Suriname to Amsterdam, Miami, Panama City, Belém, Georgetown, Port of Spain, Santo Domingo, Kingston, Aruba, Curaçao, Barbados and Cuba. The new EAG International Airport (2025) in north Paramaribo serves business aviation and offshore helicopter operations.

By sea

The Dr. Jules Sedney Terminal, 39 km from the Atlantic, has a 600-metre quay and 15 regular liner services. DP World's La Vigilantia terminal handles project cargo for mining, oil and gas, and forestry. A 330-hectare Marine Industry Park is planned with cold-chain and heavy-lift capacity, and ComPort serves as the GranMorgu shore base.

Power, road and data

The Afobaka hydropower plant at Brokopondo generated 1.46 million MWh in 2025. The East-West Road links Nickerie, Paramaribo and French Guiana, with IDB-supported upgrades. Telesur is rolling out fibre nationwide; Wanica is fully fibre-enabled. Broadband of 60 Mbps+ runs about $29 a month.

Sources: Government of Suriname Country Factsheet (Oct. 2026); SITA (Aug. 2026); Havenbeheer; IDB Invest; DP World Paramaribo.

Six Industries Built on Natural Advantage

The Government's 2027 policy direction is diversification, value addition and local content. These are the sectors where Suriname's strengths meet proven global demand.

BPO & Digital Services

The only Dutch-speaking country in South America. Seats have grown from 1,000 in 2019 to 6,500 in 2024, serving clients such as Zalando, PostNL, DHL and Samsung, often paid in euros. Business services are already the country's #2 export at $122M.

CALL CENTRES · IT · KPO · SOFTWARE

Agribusiness

1.5 million hectares suited to agriculture, only 5% in production. Rice grows on 49,800 hectares with two harvests a year. The CARICOM "25 by 2030" drive to cut food imports creates regional demand.

RICE · AQUACULTURE · COCONUT · BOTANICALS

Gold & Bauxite

Gold earned $1.01B, 63% of exports, in 2024. Newmont (Merian) and Zijin (Rosebel) run the large formal mines. Bakhuis holds 300 million-plus tonnes of high-grade bauxite, with a long alumina-refining heritage.

PROCESSING · ASSAY · LOGISTICS

Forestry & Carbon

One of only three carbon-negative countries on earth. 89,000 hectares of FSC-certified forest, high-integrity REDD+ carbon credits, and premium non-timber products like açaí and andiroba for European cosmetics.

FSC TIMBER · CARBON CREDITS · NTFPS

Blue Economy

An Atlantic coast with MSC-certified tropical shrimp, finfish exports, mangrove "blue carbon" credits and growing port and maritime services.

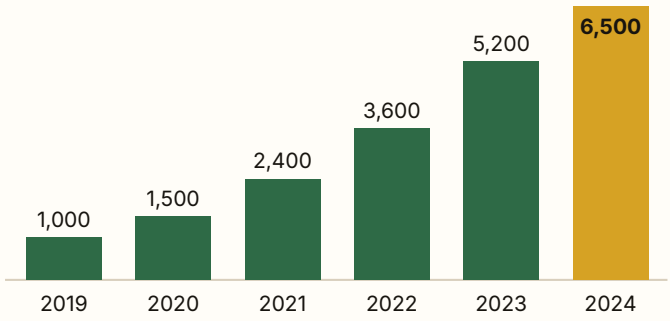
FISHERIES · AQUACULTURE · MARINE SERVICES

Renewable Energy

Strong solar resources on the coastal plain and in the interior, an established hydropower base, rural electrification needs and development-finance co-financing.

C&I SOLAR · RURAL POWER · GRID

BPO SEATS, 2019 – 2024



Why it matters for New York. A US East Coast–friendly time zone, a multilingual workforce (Dutch, English, Sranan Tongo, plus Spanish and Portuguese) and a median age of 29 make Suriname a natural nearshore partner. A minimum wage of SRD 61.25 an hour (2026) and Paramaribo office space at $12–45 per square metre keep costs competitive.

Sources: SITA sector data and General Deck (Aug. 2026); Harvard Growth Lab; Government of Suriname Country Factsheet (Oct. 2026).


"SOLIDE SINGERS" © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

CULTURE

Many Roots. One Suriname.

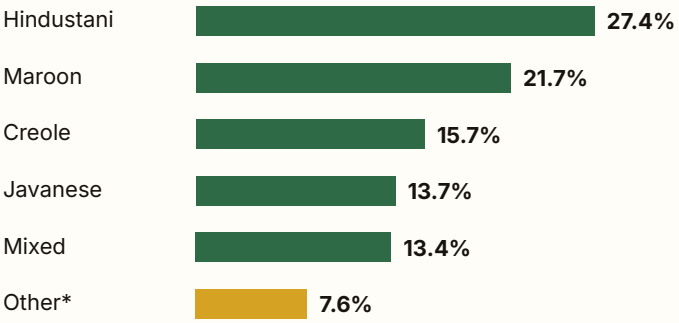
No single group forms a majority in Suriname. For investors, that diversity is not a footnote. It is a workforce, a market gateway and a source of social stability.

Walk through Paramaribo and you will hear Dutch, Sranan Tongo, Sarnami Hindustani, Javanese and Chinese in a single block. The country's people trace their roots to West and Central Africa, India, Indonesia, China, Europe, the Middle East and to the Indigenous nations who were here first.

On Sunday mornings, Paramaribo keeps one of its gentlest traditions: songbird contests, where owners bring caged finches to compete for the most songs in a set time. It is one of many customs that belong to everyone.

Above: Songbirds wait their turn before a historic tower in Paramaribo. Bird-singing contests are a cherished Surinamese pastime.

Ethnic groups



Source: CIA World Factbook. *Includes Indigenous peoples (about 4%) and Chinese (about 2%) per the 2012 census.

Religion



None 8% · Traditional/Indigenous 5% · Other 3%. Source: 2012 census, via Government of Suriname Factsheet.

"It is one of the best ways to understand our multicultural society, in which no single ethnic group forms a majority."

AMBASSADOR MOHAMED-HOESEIN, ON SURINAMESE CUISINE



Neighbors in faith. In Paramaribo's historic center, a mosque and the Neveh Shalom synagogue stand side by side on Keizerstraat, a picture of the tolerance Surinamers are proud of. Photo © Pics by PLU, Hedwig de la Fuente

THREE UNESCO TREASURES

The **Historic Inner City of Paramaribo** (2002), with its Dutch colonial wooden architecture; the **Central Suriname Nature Reserve** (2000), 1.6 million hectares of untouched rainforest; and **Jodensavanne** (2023), the remains of one of the oldest Jewish settlements in the Americas.

THE MAROON LEGACY

More than one in five Surinamers is Maroon, descended from Africans who freed themselves from the plantations and built independent nations in the rainforest. The Ndyuka and Saramaka won treaties from the colonial government in the 1760s, a century before abolition. Their languages, woodcarving and river knowledge remain central to the interior, and their story speaks directly to African Americans.

KETI KOTI

Every July 1, Surinamers mark Keti Koti, "the chains are cut," the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1863. The day of music, food and remembrance is celebrated in Paramaribo, in the Netherlands and across the diaspora.

A TABLE FOR EVERYONE

Roti from the Hindustani kitchen, Javanese bami and saoto soup, Creole pom and moksi alesi, Chinese bakeries and Indigenous cassava bread: Surinamese food is the country's culture on a plate, and a ready-made story for restaurateurs and food brands in New York.

TOURISM & INVESTMENT

The Last Great Eco-Tourism Frontier

Suriname has more rainforest than almost any nation on earth, and some of the fewest hotel rooms. For investors in hotels and eco-lodges, that gap is the opportunity.



715+
BIRD SPECIES

1.6M ha
CENTRAL SURINAME NATURE RESERVE, UNESCO

15
PROTECTED NATURE AREAS

"BAKAABOTO RAPIDS" © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

More Forest Than Costa Rica. A Fraction of the Visitors.

Costa Rica turned its rainforests into a global brand and a $5.5 billion industry. Suriname has more forest, more land and a stronger climate story. What it lacks is rooms, routes and marketing.

	SURINAME	COSTA RICA
Land area	163,820 km²	51,100 km²
Forest cover	**≈93%**	≈60%
Carbon status	**Carbon-negative, one of three nations**	Not carbon-negative
Hurricane risk	Outside the Atlantic hurricane belt	Low, Pacific and Caribbean exposure
International arrivals	Not regularly published	2.94 million (2025)
Tourism earnings	**$36 million (2024)**	**$5.57 billion (2025)**
Tourism share of GDP	Small and growing	8.2% (2024)
UNESCO sites	3 (2 cultural, 1 natural)	4

Sources: CIA World Factbook; SITA; Harvard Growth Lab (Suriname travel exports); Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) and Central Bank of Costa Rica, as reported by The Rio Times and The Tico Times.

THE DMR MATH

≈8×

If Suriname captured just **5%** of Costa Rica's tourism earnings, about $280 million a year, its tourism income would be roughly **eight times** what it is today.

Costa Rica is the world's reference point for rainforest tourism. A national park system, payments to landowners for protecting forests, and decades of consistent branding drew nearly 2.95 million international visitors in 2025, and tourism income reached a record of about $5.57 billion.

Suriname starts with greater natural assets. Its forest covers about 93% of its territory, compared with about 60% in Costa Rica, on a landmass more than three times as large. It sits outside the hurricane belt. It has the Central Suriname Nature Reserve, jaguars, giant river otters and pink river dolphins, and living Maroon and Indigenous cultures that no theme park can copy.

Yet in 2024 travel and tourism earned Suriname just $36 million in exports. The difference is not nature. It is infrastructure: hotel rooms, ecolodges, trained guides, air routes and a destination brand.

Costa Rica also offers a warning worth heeding. Its arrivals grew only about 1% in 2025 as prices rose and competitors caught up. Travelers are looking for the next authentic destination, and Suriname has a chance to be it, provided growth is planned with the communities of the interior, as the Ambassador urges.

Wanted: Hotels and Eco-Lodges

Demand is already here, from oil-and-gas contractors to diaspora families. The rooms are not.

International brands have started to arrive. Courtyard by Marriott, Ramada by Wyndham and Radisson already operate in Paramaribo. But SITA reports a clear supply gap in mid-scale hotels and serviced apartments, just as GranMorgu brings a steady flow of engineers, contractors and suppliers. Visitors on business who stay on for the rainforest, so-called "bleisure" travel, are a natural bridge from oil to eco-tourism.

INVESTABLE NICHES

Eco-lodges	Interior lodges on the Upper Suriname River, Brokopondo and the nature parks, developed with Maroon and Indigenous communities
City & airport hotels	Mid-scale rooms and serviced apartments in Paramaribo; an airport hotel at J.A. Pengel
Conferences (MICE)	A new conference centre in development is set to anchor meetings demand
River & birding travel	715+ bird species; river safaris, sport fishing at Brokopondo Lake
Wellness & heritage	Plantation-district stays in Commewijne, Jodensavanne, cultural tours
Cruise & expedition	About $135,000 in revenue per port call; a future cruise terminal; joint "Guianas" itineraries with French Guiana

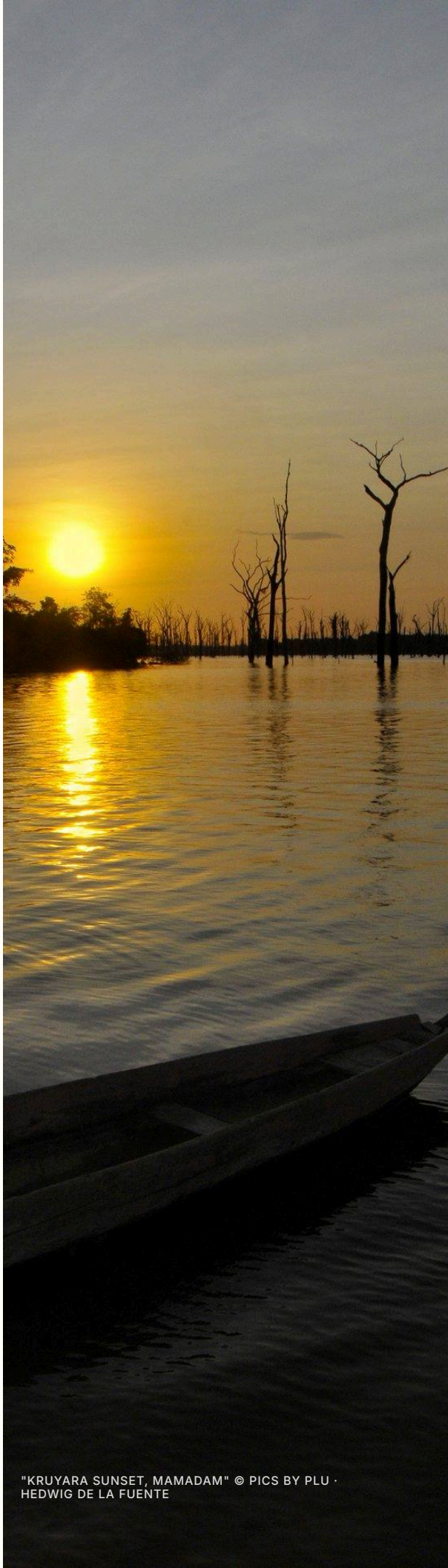
"Tourism offers opportunities in eco-lodges, hotels, restaurants, tour operations, river excursions and cultural experiences."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

WHERE TO BUILD

Upper Suriname River: Maroon culture and rich nature, a SITA priority zone. **Brokopondo & Brownsberg:** the great reservoir and its rainforest overlook, an easy drive from the capital. **Commewijne:** historic plantations across the river from Paramaribo. **Central Suriname Nature Reserve:** Raleighvallen and the deep interior. **Paramaribo:** the UNESCO inner city and the business traveler.

Sources: SITA Tourism and General Decks (2026); WTTC; Suriname Tourism Authority; Government of Suriname.



"KRUYARA SUNSET, MAMADAM" © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

How to Set Up in Suriname

Incentives, market access and the four steps to establish, with SITA as your one-stop shop.

TAX AND INCENTIVES

Corporate income tax	36% standard; tax holidays possible for qualifying foreign direct investment
VAT	10%, introduced January 2023
Import duties	Exemptions available
Other incentives	Tax holidays or accelerated depreciation; sector-specific incentives for qualifying projects
Investor protection	Bilateral investment and double-taxation treaties with the Netherlands

MARKET ACCESS, 500 MILLION+ CONSUMERS

CARICOM	Single market of 18 million
CARIFORUM–EU EPA	Zero tariffs on most goods into a market of 450 million
CARIFORUM–UK EPA	Preferential access to 69 million
WTO and GSP	GSP preferences granted by the USA, Japan, Switzerland and others

Source: SITA (Aug. 2026). Rates and incentives are subject to conditions; consult SITA and qualified advisors.

FOUR STEPS TO ESTABLISH

1 **Contact SITA**
Consultation and opportunity matching

2 **SITA facilitation**
Regulatory guidance and introductions to ministries

3 **Business registration**
Guidance through the Chamber of Commerce and ministries; permits and visas

4 **Operational launch**
SITA aftercare and government liaison

OPERATING COSTS

Minimum wage	SRD 61.25 per hour (2026)
Office, Paramaribo CBD	$12–45 per m² per month
Broadband 60 Mbps+	About $29 a month
Adult literacy	About 95%

READY TO EXPLORE SURINAME?

Start with SITA, the national one-stop shop for investors. For introductions to the Embassy and to partners featured in this edition, contact the DMR.

www.sita.sr · info@sita.sr | DMR: (347) 569-7120 · pjackson@theharlemtimes.com

NEW · DMR OPPORTUNITY SNAPSHOT

Suriname at a Glance: A First SWOT View

A preview of the country analysis the DMR will publish in future editions. Prepared by the DMR from the sources in this issue.

STRENGTHS

- Stable democracy; peaceful, multicultural society
- ≈93% forest, carbon-negative, outside the hurricane belt
- Multilingual workforce; only Dutch-speaking nation in South America
- CARICOM, EU and UK market access
- World-class partners in the offshore basin

WEAKNESSES

- Small domestic market of about 650,000 people
- Limited hotel stock and interior access
- Recent history of debt and currency stress
- Heavy reliance on gold exports today
- Skills gaps for specialized offshore work

OPPORTUNITIES

- Oil and gas supply chain before first oil in 2028
- Gas-to-shore power and industrial growth from 2030
- Hotels, eco-lodges and heritage tourism
- Nearshore BPO for Europe and North America
- Agribusiness for CARICOM; carbon and blue-carbon credits
- Diaspora investment and trade with New York

THREATS

- Oil and gold price swings
- Managing oil revenue so growth reaches everyone
- Pressure on forests from informal gold mining
- Regional competition for investment and visitors
- Inflation as oil money enters the economy

WATCH & LEARN

See Suriname for Yourself: Videos on YouTube

A Beginner's Guide to Paramaribo

youtube.com/watch?v=Ep3bZvdWJcY

Top 10 Best Places to Visit in Suriname

youtube.com/watch?v=ZIM5QYWaB5o

Top 10 Things to Do in Paramaribo

youtube.com/watch?v=tjhPhBVXxvs

4K Walking Tour: Paramaribo 2026

youtube.com/watch?v=60d4v7tjr_w

Climbing Fredberg: Into the Interior

youtube.com/watch?v=L9daKzorA1w

A Brief Political History of Suriname

youtube.com/watch?v=oJnKFxOSLVA

Scan a code with your phone camera or tap a title. Videos are produced by independent creators; the DMR is not affiliated with them.

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Energy: Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V. · staatsolie.com

TOURISM & TRAVEL

Plan a visit

Official tourism portal: suriname.travel
Suriname Tourism Foundation: Dr. J.F. Nassylaan 2, Paramaribo · surinametourism.sr
SHATA (Hospitality & Tourism Association): shata.sr
Arrival & entry: Immigration and Customs Form, icf.sr

PHOTO CREDITS

All photographs © Pics by PLU, Hedwig de la Fuente, used with permission, courtesy of the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname: Cover and page 6, "River Boss"; page 4, "Suriname Human Flag"; pages 2 and 12, "Bosjebrug Paramaribo Sunset"; page 14, "Solide Singers"; page 15, "Mosque Synagogue"; page 16, "Bakaaboto Rapids"; pages 18 and 22, "Kruyara Sunset, Mamadam." Offshore map, page 9: Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname N.V. (status September 2026), provided by the Embassy.

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SOURCES

Government of the Republic of Suriname, Country Factsheet (Oct. 2026); SITA, General Deck (Aug. 2026); CIA World Factbook; TotalEnergies; Staatsolie; PETRONAS; OilNOW; Offshore Magazine; World Oil; Rigzone; Harvard Growth Lab, Atlas of Economic Complexity; Costa Rican Tourism Institute and Central Bank of Costa Rica via The Rio Times and The Tico Times; OECD Tourism Trends and Policies 2026.

Scan for **theharlemtimes.com**

Scan for **SITA**, sita.sr

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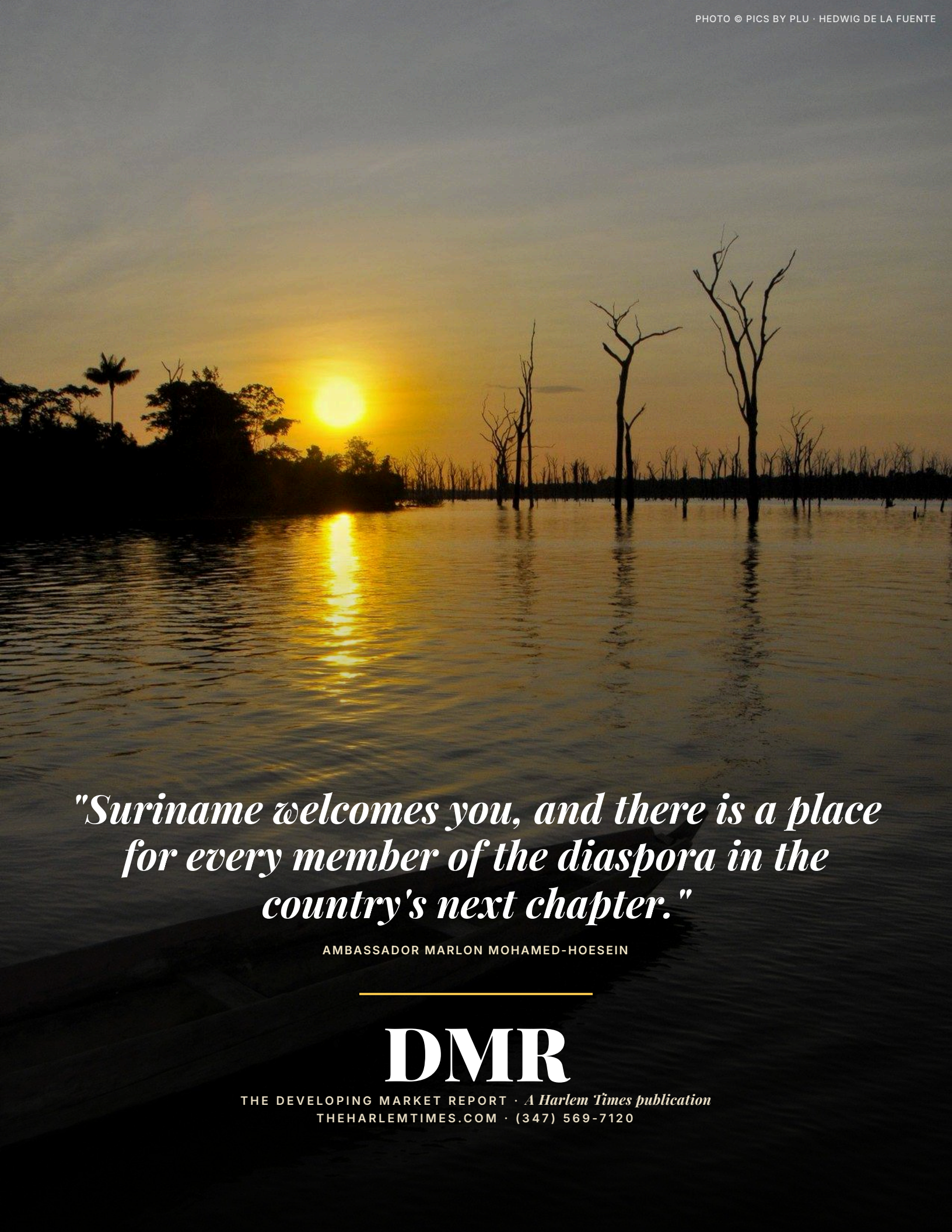


PHOTO © PICS BY PLU · HEDWIG DE LA FUENTE

"Suriname welcomes you, and there is a place for every member of the diaspora in the country's next chapter."

AMBASSADOR MARLON MOHAMED-HOESEIN

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